

# LITTLE YARNS ABOUT FILMS, STARS, PLAYS AND LIFE IN MOVIES

By JAMES W. DEAN

NEW YORK, June 24.—The one form of photoplay distinctly American is the comic.

The first slapsticks made by Chaplin and Sennet employed the European idea of modified, resulting in evolution of an anomalous form of expression somewhere between clownish buffoonery and dramatic comedy. Examples of this form are "Pay Day," "Trouble," "Grandma's Boy" and "Poor Boy."

This form has proved so popular that producers of polite comedy are interjecting farce and rough comedy into their stories. Thus a large percentage of American motion pictures, probably one-third, is expressed in a form that finds no counterpart on the stage or in fiction.

Many of the new series of comedies strike this medium of expression. One such is the series starring Arthur Housman, the first of which is "The Snitching Hour."

Housman's pantomime is reminiscent of Chaplin, although it does not appear that he seeks to mimic the great comedian. Several situations are also Chaplinesque, the comedian achieving success apparently through inability rather than ability.

"The Snitching Hour" does not contain enough material for the five reels used. Shortened, it would prove a whirlwind comedy. It gives promise of presenting to the screen in Housman, a comedian of unusual attraction.

Evidently no expense is spared in the making of these comedies, for the cast includes Gladys Leslie, Nita Naldi, Frank Currier, George Lessey, Charles Craig and Mario Carillo.

**SCENARIOS VS. STAGE**  
Helen Mackellar previewed the picture of "The Storm." The role of Manette in the stage play "made" her. Virginia Valli has the role in the picture.

Says Helen of Virginia: "She brings to the part all the charm and naivete required to interpret sympathetically this lovable character."

Which is confession that Helen thinks herself charming and naive. However, many others, this writer among them, think the same.

The premier of the picture will be at the Capitol, New York, June 18. S. L. Rothbart, director, has prepared a noise effect for the fire scene, so realistic it probably will be broadcasted by radio.

**BALLAD PLOTS**

The ballad as a plot for movie plays seems to be growing since "On the Banks of the Wabash," and "My Wild Irish Rose" were found. Now comes "Love's Old Sweet Song." It will be produced in seven reels with Ernest Hillard, Louis Wolheim, Lucille LaVerne, Amy Lowell, Donald Gallagher, Helen Ware, and Warren Cook in the cast.

**THE MOVIE-TORIUM**

Conway Tearle and Miriam Cooper will head the cast of a picture to be made in Detroit.

"On the High Seas," featuring Dorothy Dalton and Jack Holt, is the first original screen story written by Edward Sheldon, author of "Salvation Nell," "The Song of Songs" and "Romance."

James A. Fitzpatrick, who is filming the "Great American Authors" series, is at work on the estate of Alfred Lord Tennyson on the Isle of Wight.

The support of Guy Bates Post in the screen version of "Omar, the Tent Maker," includes Virginia Brown Faire, Nigel de Bruliere, Douglas Gerard, Fatsy Ruth Miller, Evelyn Selbie, Rose Dione and Boris Karloff.

Mary Astor plays opposite Glenn Hunter in "Second Fiddle."

Bill Desmond's injured again. Burned while carrying Laura La Plant and her mother from a hotel fire at Truckee.

Niles Welch, Ruth Renick and Russell Simpson will support Wesley Barry in "From Rags to Riches."

Harry Myers will play the lead in "Vengeance Deep."

The portent of the appointment of Will Hays as head of the movie industry is now becoming apparent. He has started to "clean up" photoplays at the source—the studios.

This is his first step since his appointment that places a tangible aspect on the phrasing of the purposes of the producers' organization, to wit: to establish and maintain the highest possible moral and artistic standards in motion picture production.

Hays has sent a letter to every producer in the organization to eliminate all objectionable features in pictures

executives of other companies have passed the order along to producing units. The pictures released at the start of the fall season will show definitely what effect the order of the "big boss" has had.

Hays' order is rather vague in phrasing. The avowed purposes of the recently formed Federation of Art is more to the point. The federation represents the American Society of Cinematographers, Motion Picture Directors' Association, Screen Writers' Guild and Motion Picture Actors' Association of California.

The intent of the Federation of Art is thus stated: "Qualification for participation requires that every individual conduct himself or herself according to the standards of common decency."

And more, the federation pledges to eliminate from the industry any one who brings disgrace or scandal upon himself or his fellows.

Some of the scandals that have stirred Hollywood in the past would not have occurred had this penalty imposed.

And on the artistic side of things, the following are some of the things the writer would like to see accomplished:

Restoration of Gloria Swanson and Agnes Ayres from the status of style mannequins to that of actresses.

A haircut for Rodolph Valentino and Bill Farnum.

Fewer closeups of Naimova and Norma Talmadge.

A suitable story and capable direction for Carl Gantvoort.

Smother continuity in Lloyd Hamilton comedies.

A seating arrangement in theatres that would obviate the many interruptions suffered by spectators.

Lambert Hillyer is known as "the director who doubles for doubles." A double, as you probably know, is one engaged to perform hazardous stunts for an actor.

Some of the things that Hillyer has done when doubles have failed: Jumping off a high cliff into a net, falling off a ship's upper bridge to the sea, 60 feet below, falling backward off a moving train into a rocky gully, diving over the sternwheel of a river steamer, riding a log down a lumber flume, standing on the wing of an airplane to film the fall of an aviator, and locking his motorcycle wheels with those of a speeding auto.

Hillyer is 28. Started in pictures when he was graduated from Drake college eight years ago. His mother is Lydia Knott, one of the best known "screen mothers." He directed Bill Hart in 25 pictures, writing the continuity of 15 of them. His two latest pictures are "Skin Deep" and "The Brotherhood of Hate."

"Ivanhoe" is to be filmed in Vienna with Edward Laemmle directing.

Ethel Grey Terry will play opposite Dustin Farnum in "Oathbound."

Many translations of the written story into the celluloid medium suffer in the process. When the story is derived from more than one source a film both usually ensues.

"My Wild Irish Rose" for that reason seems to be an exceptional photoplay. It takes its theme from Chaucer's "The Knight's Tale" and from "The Shaughran," Don Boucicault's play and contains a character interpolation of the director's own device.

The fact that no character of the play assumes a predominating place in the play marks the picture as a model of continuity writing.

The story deals with one little phase of the disturbances in County Sligo that marked the struggle for Irish independence years ago and which find their counterpart in more recent days.

Three romances are interwoven in the story. The principals are Pat O'Malley, Helen Howard, Maude Emery, Pauline Starke, Edward Cecil and Henry Hebert.

While the handling of these play-interesting than the others may be a bit so that none proves more or less directorial achievement, it robs the picture of naturalism. Six people in love would hardly express or repress their emotions in the same degree. That's monotonous. Variety is the spice of love as well as of life.

The character interpolation in "My Wild Irish Rose" is to afford opportunity for the display of Mickey Daniels' talents and freckles. Mickey first burst into russet glory in the version of "The Little Minister," starring Alice Calhoun. He is the only boy actor who threatens the vast popularity of Jackie Coogan.

However, Mickey is a great actor because he is just himself before the camera. He probably will realize some day that he is an actor and that will end his appeal.

Jack Pickford's first starring picture

will be "The Love of the King."

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Keaton and Hamilton when he realizes that an idea does more than hard work to make a comedy.

Revivals of old photoplays continue to flood the market.

"The Delicious Little Devil," starring Mac Murray, is one of the latest. The best reason for its revival at this time is that Rodolph Valentino appears in the support and Rodolph Valentino makes 'em stand in line at the box office.

The best of the revivals is one made 12 years ago. It is called "Going Straight" and stars King Baggot, "supported" by Mary Pickford. Presented seriously, it makes an effective comedy and affords a fine study in the great advance made in a new art.

The first movie made in Russia to be sent to the United States for exhibition is "Thousand and One Nights." It was directed and acted entirely by Russians. Nathalie Kovanka is the star. J. E. Robbins is editing and titling the film for exhibition. The Soviet government is encouraging the production of photoplays in Moscow, especially of propaganda films to be sent to Germany and Austria.

**CINEMAGRAMS.**  
Von Stroheim's next picture will be called "Merry Go-Round."

Harold Lloyd's next comedy will be completed about July 1.

Roy Stewart will play the lead in "The Radio King."

A report from Hollywood states Cecil DeMille is spending \$15,000 a day for "vision scenes" for "Manslaughter." They depict the splendor of Rome.

Gloria Jorj. How's that for a movie queen's name? That's what they call the star of a new series of comedies. She used to do child parts in the movies and more recently appeared four years in vaudeville.

"Enter Madame" is Clara Kimball Young's next. She recently completed "The Hands of Naro."

George Fawcett plays the judge in "Manslaughter."

The one development that argues well for the future of the movie is the increasing interest taken in it by church and public welfare organizations.

Dr. Dan B. Brummit, editor of the Epworth Herald, official organ of 750,000 members of the Epworth league, recently replied editorially to those who criticized him for accepting motion picture advertising for the paper.

He simply stated that millions of church people attend the movies and will continue to attend the movie matinee what is said and done and by whom and that the church should use motion pictures for educative, recreative and evangelistic purposes.

George Arlino filmed interiors of "The Silent Voice" in a Brooklyn church.

A minister introduced Mary Carr at the premier showing of "Silver Wings."

The W. C. T. U. is now commending such pictures as meet with its approval and asking local chapters to co-operate with exhibitors showing them.

Will Hays is scheduled to speak before the general federation of women's clubs at Chautauque, N. Y., June 28. Mrs. Eli T. Hosmer, New York state censor and the heads of various committees also will talk on films.

The executive council of the American Federation of Labor in session at Cincinnati condemned legalized censorship. A proposal for the federation to make and exhibit films in its own theatres was voted down.

Mrs. Evelyn Frances Snow, Ohio state censor, has been removed from office. That happened shortly after her now famous remark that only ten per cent of the people knew what they ought to see on the screen.

Mrs. Snow was removed was that 90 per cent of the people didn't agree with her.

Madge Bellamy has been selected as Jack Pickford's leading lady in "Garrison's Finish." She is one of the most promising of the screen's younger actresses. "Garrison's Finish" looms as a big picture. This may be Miss Bellamy's step to stardom.

Mary Pickford has completed one-fourth of her next picture. She has decided to retain the old title, "Tess of the Storm Country."

Doug Fairbanks has his new picture one-half completed. The title will be "Douglas Fairbanks in Robin Hood."

Now the only way the distributors of "weasel" pictures can benefit by that title as they did through "Three Musketeers" is to find another actor named Douglas Fairbanks.

With green appletime upon us, all parades should take the young fellows to see "Nanook of the North." In that picture a little Eskimo is given a tablespoonful of castor oil. He swallows it, licks his lips and laughs for more. That's because he lives on a diet of raw walrus and seal. Castor oil is as candy to him.

**REELOGRAPHIES**  
"Better business conditions aren't coming—they're here," says Adolph Zukor, president of Paramount. The depression terminated as suddenly as it commenced."

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Talmadge's leading man in "East Is West."

There is a dearth of promising comedians fitted to succeed Chaplin. Arthur Housman, about whom this writer recently wrote, and Henry Murdoch seem to be the only ones in view who have a definite idea of pantomime, and that, after all, is the real comedian's chief stock in trade.

Henry Murdoch started in pictures in the old Kalem days. He later was featured by Universal. He is now playing in Christie comedies and rather infrequently is mentioned in the main title.

Despite Murdoch's obscure position this writer believes he is potentially a capable actor who has not yet found the particular niche into which he properly fits.

Murdoch had a minor role in "Cold Feet," the best Christie comedy yet produced, yet he overshadowed every other member of the cast in mimetic ability.

He is a master of makeup. He appeared as an Indian guide in "Cold Feet" and looked like the real thing. In "Buckley Broadway" a new Christie, he is a justice of the peace and a chorus girl. In "Twas Ever Thus," he was dressed as a woman. In "Mile-a-Minute Mary," he is a rube.

Murdoch's pantomime is much like that of Theodore Kosloff. His ability in making up equals that of Lon Chaney. Some day he will be known as well as either of them.

Some may question this faith in a man who has been in the movies five years without achieving a featured position.

To them, I point to Lloyd Hamilton who made 200 comedies before he was recognized as one of the screen's best comedians. And to Ben Turpin, who shuffled along for years before his name became generally known.

Those who have won recognition in the movies by plugging away for many years are legion. The toilers "arrive" in the movies, as they do in any vocation.

**MOVIE CHATTERBOX**  
When Gloria Swanson returned from Europe she brought six trunks full of clothes. Much of this wardrobe will be used in "The Impossible Mrs. Below," her next picture, thus making secure her reputation as the screen's "most dressed woman."

W. J. Ferguson, now a screen character actor, has signed he memorized 1,125,000 spoken lines in his 57 years on the stage.

Charlie Chaplin's next comedy is about finished, but, as usual, the nature of the plot is kept secret until released.

They changed "The Duchess of Languis" to "The Eternal Flame" and now they changed that to "Infatuation." Norma Talmadge, the star, is now filming "The Voice of the Minaret." That will be followed by "The Garden of Allah."

The movie studio is a place where rose-wreathed romance blooms in every corner—to the uninitiated. It is only a prosaic workshop to those who labor there, a place of eye-hurting lights and muggy atmosphere.

Thus the news about Stella de anti has the Paramount studio all astir. Stella has been playing in small parts for a year. She was given a character role in "Burning Sands." The road to fame and recognition is still to be traveled.

Yet Stella is a noblewoman, the Duchess de Lanti, member of one of Italy's proudest families.

She played "hooky" from an art school in London to appear as an extra in a picture made by Pathe Freres. She decided then and there she would some day be a movie actress.

Along came the war. Stella enlisted as a nurse. She met Fenwick Oliver, an English soldier. They married.

Then the armistice. Oliver's health was impaired. A doctor ordered a climate like that of California. They went to Hollywood.

They registered at the studios for work. Nothing was said about Mrs. Oliver's title. Both have appeared in a number of pictures. It was only recently that Mrs. Oliver was identified as a sure-enough duchess.

She says her title will neither help nor hinder her, that she wants no part as a grande dame in pictures because of her title.

However, one wonders what have been the feelings of the Duchess de Lanti as she has watched some strutting actress play the part of noblewoman.

Perhaps the Duchess de Lanti can give a few of our over-dressed stars pointers on how to wear trains. Letatrice Joy is to appear with a cloth of gold train 50 feet long in "Manslaughter." If Cecil DeMille introduced to the screen the elegance in this film as he did in "Saturday Night," he might appropriately change the

title from "Manslaughter" to "Murder."

King Vidor has been engaged by Metro to direct Laurette Taylor in the filming of "Peg o' My Heart."

Production will start soon. Selection of Vidor means an artistic production for Vidor was the man who directed "The Jack Knife Man," one of the most artistic pictures that ever graced the silver screen.

Spectral actors are becoming very popular in photoplays. The varying conceptions of spirits held by authors and directors are unusually interesting.

"One Glorious Day" presented a spirit as a detached thing, a soul that bore but little resemblance to the human form.

"Smilin' Through" was based on the Conan Doyle and Oliver Lodge theory the soul is an ectoplasm that takes the form of the body inhabited in the prime of life. You remember, when the old lover died his spirit appeared as he had appeared at the time when his sweetheart was shot.

"The Stroke of Midnight" presents still another view of the soul after life. This photoplay invests the spirit with the power to change its appearance and its clothes after death. The one assigned to drive the death wagon for instance, wears a hooded cape.

**CUTS AND FLASHES.**  
Constance Binney will star in an English photodramatization of "A Bill of Divorcement," in which Alan Pollock scored a stage hit last winter.

Reginald Barker will film "Timber," the novel by Harold Titus.

The movies keep abreast of the times. A drawing room scene in "Broken Chains" will show a radio amplifier instead of the familiar phonograph.

Although Jack Pickford has completed several scenes for "Garrison's Finish," a leading woman for the film has not yet been chosen.

"Broken Chains" will be filmed in the redwood forests at Santa Cruz, Cal.

Virginia Valli will be starred by Universal.

Lon Chaney will be featured in "Bitter Sweet," a story by William Dudley Pelley. Virginia Valli, Maug George and Vernon Steele will be in the cast.

Harry Carey is editing "Combat," his first feature for R-C Pictures.

A set of 40 houses, hay field and orchard has been built at the Lasky studio for the picturization of "The Old Homestead," starring Theodore Roberts.

This item should have been on page one: Theodore Roberts will not smoke one cigar in "The Old Homestead."

Gauge dial on the dash now tells engine temperature.

# ALHAMBRA

The Coolest Place In Utah

Big New Show TODAY Four Days



Jesse L. Lasky presents  
**"Is Matrimony a Failure?"**

with T. Roy Barnes Lila Lee  
Lois Wilson Walter Hiers  
A Paramount Picture

GROUCHES, BEWARE!

Clear the track for the jazziest smile-picture ever made.

A whirlwind feature comedy that showers laughs and chuckles, and breaks all records for the running broad grin.

Gives the inside dope on marriage and tells why husbands leave home—and come back again. Also—all about the lovely elopement that turned a town upside down.



ADDED ATTRACTION

**Big Two Reel Comedy**

**10c-30c**

Children All Shows Adults All Shows

SHOWS

TODAY

5:00

7:00

9:00

The Alhambra will open Monday immediately after the Circus Parade

## LONDON SOCIALISTS ARE VERY PALE RED

LONDON, June 24.—(By The Associated Press.)—In pre-war days "internationalism" was a word calculated to strike fear into the hearts of those who govern, but now, with three international Socialist conferences in existence, there are degrees of socialistic methods ranging from the flaming red of Moscow to the pale shade of the prosperous London suburb of Golders Green, where this past week the conference of the second international was held.

The gentle game of bowls on a beautiful lawn and feasts of English strawberries occupied the spare moments of the privy councillors, cabinet ministers and former ministers of European state who, headed by Arthur Henderson, leader of the English laborites, discussed serious economic questions in three languages. Not even a red necktie was evident among the prosperous, responsible-looking,

frank-coated politicians, who gave a meeting a distinctly bourgeois air.

Bitter denunciation of their brother, or half-brother Socialists at Moscow for their Communistic method in dealing with the Social Revolutionary prisoners on trial in the Russian capital marked the session.

**GOLD PIECES FOUND.**  
SPOKANE, Wash.—Gold pieces, totaling about \$100, have been picked out of the dirt by workmen on downtown sewer construction here in the last few days. The finds are attributed to a low placed old sewer